

# Whitehouse Waste Oil Pits Superfund Site



JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

OCTOBER 2003

**I**n September 1998, EPA signed an Amended **Record of Decision** (AROD) selecting a cleanup remedy for the Whitehouse Waste Oil Pits **Superfund Site** (Whitehouse Site) in Jacksonville, Florida. EPA approved the design of the cleanup plan in September 2000.

In January 2002, a **Consent Decree**, defining the terms and responsibilities for implementing the Site cleanup plan, was filed with the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida - Jacksonville Division.

*This fact sheet discusses the upcoming construction activities and announces a public information session to be hosted by EPA at Whitehouse Elementary School on Tuesday, October 14, 2003 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. The meeting will provide the public an opportunity to ask questions about the planned cleanup construction. Words in color italics are defined in the glossary on page 3. Information used to support this fact sheet is available for review in the Site Administrative Record, located at EPA's Information Repository at Whitehouse Elementary School.*

## WRAG and EPA to Begin Whitehouse Site Construction

In October 2003, the Whitehouse Remedial Action Group (**WRAG**) and EPA plan to begin the construction of the cleanup remedy at the Whitehouse Site. The onsite portion of the construction project will include: (1) *In situ* (in place) stabilization/solidification (S/S) treatment of the top two lifts (layers) of the waste oil pits; (2) installation of a subsurface barrier (slurry wall) around the perimeter of the Site; (3) construction of a low permeability cap over the contained area; and (4) realignment of the McGirts Creek tributary. When the Site waste oil pits ruptured in the past, contaminated sludge spilled into the northeast tributary of McGirts Creek and surrounding wetlands. As part of the Site cleanup, approximately 1,500 feet of the tributary will be realigned, and the old stream bed will be capped. This will prevent further spread of contaminated groundwater, soil and sediment.

As part of the S/S treatment, approximately 19,000 cubic yards of material in the top two lifts of the waste oil pits will be mixed with Portland cement to a depth of about

3 feet. This will immobilize contaminants of concern and provide structural stability for the construction of the surface cap. The subsurface barrier wall will contain the contaminated materials in the waste oil pits, as well as the contaminated groundwater associated with the Site. It will extend to a depth of between 55 and 65 feet below ground surface and have a width of 3 feet. The subsurface barrier wall will be composed of a cement-bentonite slurry.

After completion of the S/S treatment and the subsurface barrier wall installation, the Site will be graded in preparation for the installation of the Site cap. The primary objective of the cap is to prevent infiltration of rainwater into the waste, thereby minimizing the production of leachate and further impacts to groundwater. A multi-layer cap covering 11.4 acres will be installed. When this phase of the project is completed, the capped area will be a slightly raised (4 - 5 feet) grass covered field, fenced to prevent public access. Ongoing groundwater monitoring and maintenance of the grass will continue after construction.

Additional contaminated soil was discovered approximately ½ mile



**Public Availability Session ...** EPA will hold a public information session to discuss the upcoming construction at the Whitehouse Site. The session will be on: **Tuesday, October 14, 2003 from 6-8 PM at Whitehouse Elementary School, 11160 General Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32220**

downstream of the Site along McGirts Creek. All contaminated soil that exceeds Site cleanup goals will be removed and transported to the Site for placement within the cap area. The wetlands along the creek will be restored with clean soil and replanted with wetland vegetation. EPA will also address other ecological concerns within the McGirts Creek wetlands and will investigate other areas along the creek to determine if additional pockets of contamination exist.

To minimize impacts to nearby residents, EPA will require that contractors limit noise and work hours. Normal construction hours will be from 7 AM to 5:30 PM Monday - Friday, and a half day on Saturday. Soil excavation, waste transportation, and the transport of clean soil to the Site will also be scheduled to limit disruptions to the community. EPA will work with the community to set up appropriate hauling routes and times to avoid conflict with local traffic. Plans are underway to bring in clean fill from a development project just north of the Site using off-road dump trucks. This arrangement would limit traffic to approximately 50 trucks/day. If fill is brought in from a different location, traffic would be approximately 150 trucks/day.

Engineering controls will be put in place to limit odors, dust, and emissions from the Site. The use of plastic sheeting, vapor control foam, and limiting the amount of area open at any one time will be among the techniques implemented to minimize impacts of the construction.

## Extension of Municipal Water Supply

In addition to the cleanup activities described above, EPA is also planning the extension of the municipal water supply to approximately 42 homes along Beaver Street and Machele Drive. The Jacksonville Electric Authority

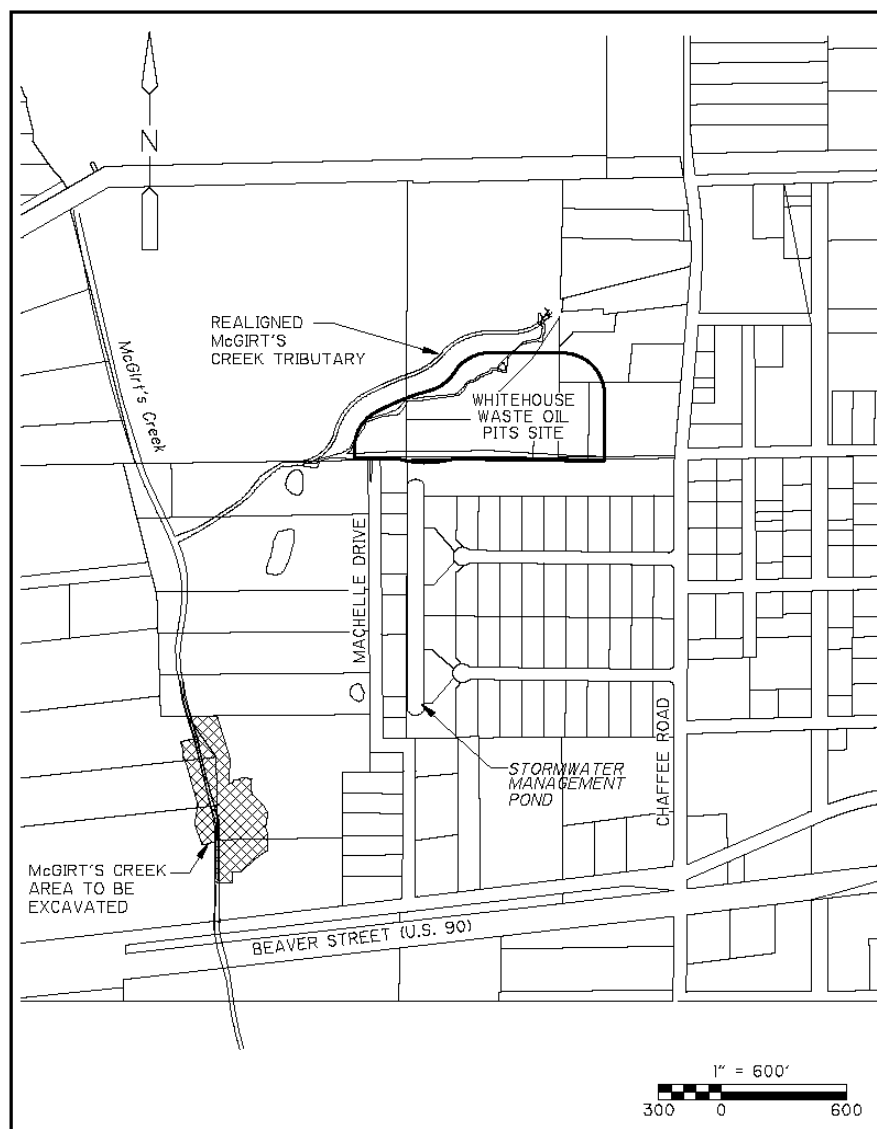


Figure No. 1  
Site Map

**CDM** Federal Programs Corporation

(JEA) is currently planning to start the project in late September 2003.

Installation of the new water line will include extending the 8-inch municipal water main from the intersection of Beaver Street and Chaffee Road west along Beaver Street to Machele Drive. The line will then turn north and run to the end of Machele Drive. It is expected that work will continue through October and November and be completed some time in December 2003.

## Construction Contractor Selected

In 2001, the *PRPs (Potentially Responsible Parties)* selected Golder Associates as the Supervising Contractor and Project Coordinator for the implementation of the Site cleanup plan. Golder and the *PRPs* have now selected ENTACT as the construction contractor. Founded in 1991, ENTACT has provided environmental remediation services to federal, state, local and private clients on more than 1,200 projects.

With offices in Dallas, Chicago, Atlanta, and Houston, ENTACT has completed EPA cleanup projects under Superfund, RCRA, and the Brownfields Program in all ten EPA Regions. For more information about ENTACT, see [www.ENTACT.com](http://www.ENTACT.com).

ENTACT will implement the cleanup design under the supervision of both Golder Associates for the [PRPs](#) and EPA. CDM, an EPA contractor, will be overseeing the project for EPA to ensure that the remedy meets the design criteria and attains cleanup goals. All work done by the [PRP](#) contractors is subject to EPA review and approval. EPA will also determine if the Site cleanup has been completed in accordance with the [Consent Decree](#) and when the [Performance Standards](#) have been met.

## Technical Assistance Grant Available

EPA provides community groups with the opportunity to apply for Technical Assistance Grants (TAGs) of up to \$50,000 per [Superfund](#) site. With TAG funding, a community group can hire a technical adviser to help interpret existing information about the site or new findings that develop during the [Superfund](#) cleanup process. Citizens who are interested in applying for a TAG may obtain an application package by calling or writing:

Rosemary Patton, U.S. EPA  
61 Forsyth Street, SW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
1-404-562-8866

## Glossary

**Consent Decree** - a legal document, approved by a judge, that formalizes an agreement between EPA and one or more [PRPs](#) outlining the terms by which the response action will take place.

**National Priorities List (NPL)** - the list of our county's priority sites for cleanup.

## Site History

The 7-acre Whitehouse Waste Oil Pits [Superfund Site](#) is an abandoned waste oil sludge disposal facility located in Whitehouse, about 10 miles west of downtown Jacksonville. From about 1956 to 1968, Allied Petro-Products, Inc. operated the Site as a repository for waste oil sludges and acidic oil refinery by-products, dumping wastes into seven unlined pits on the Site. Allied ceased operations in 1968 and filed for bankruptcy.

In 1968, the dike surrounding one of the waste pits ruptured, resulting in a spill onto adjacent properties and into McGirts Creek. A second pit released its contents in 1976. EPA and the City of Jacksonville conducted several initial cleanup actions to stabilize Site conditions and prevent the spread of contamination, and erected a fence around the Site's perimeter to restrict access.

The Site was proposed for listing on the National Priorities List ([NPL](#)) in 1981, after monitoring results indicated the migration of Site contaminants to surface and groundwater. The Site's listing on the [NPL](#) was finalized in 1983. In 1985, EPA signed a Record of Decision ([ROD](#)), selecting containment of the pit areas and adjacent wetlands, and extraction and treatment of contaminated groundwater to clean up the Site.

With the passage of the [Superfund](#) Amendments and Reauthorization Act in 1986, EPA began to re-evaluate the 1985 [ROD](#) in search of cleanup alternatives using treatment. In 1992, EPA issued an Amended [ROD](#) to change the remedy for source materials to a combination of soil washing, bioremediation, and stabilization/solidification.

In 1994, EPA and a group of [PRPs](#) signed an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) for new studies to better define waste materials in the pits. Results of these studies indicated that the remedy outlined in the 1992 Amended [ROD](#) would not be effective in addressing the Site contamination. EPA then issued a second Amended [ROD](#) on September 24, 1998, selecting onsite containment of contaminated soil, sludge, and groundwater. CDM performed the design activities for the selected remedy. EPA approved the Remedial Design for the Site in September 2000. Changes to the Amended [ROD](#) resulting from the design process were published in the July 2001 *Explanation of Significant Differences*.

A [Consent Decree](#), which defines the terms and responsibilities for implementing the Site cleanup plan, was lodged with the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida - Jacksonville Division in January 2002. Under the [Consent Decree](#), EPA will pay for 63.4 percent of the cleanup. EPA's share covers the costs assigned to bankrupt, defunct, and non-settling [PRPs](#). The Settling Defendants are responsible for the remaining 36.6 percent. EPA also offered a *de minimis* settlement under an AOC to settle claims for past and future response costs for parties who were alleged to have contributed only a small amount of contamination to the Site. Forty-two (42) parties accepted EPA's settlement offer.

**Performance Standards** - cleanup standards and other measures of achievement of the goals of the remedial action set forth in the ROD and the Final Design Report.

**Potentially Responsible Party (PRP)** - an individual or company who may have owned or operated the Site or transported or generated hazardous substances that may have contributed to contamination problems at a Superfund site.

**Record of Decision (ROD)** - the official document that details how EPA considered the cleanup alternatives and why EPA selected the final remedy for a site.

**Superfund** - A Superfund site is an area contaminated by hazardous substances that pose a threat to human health and the environment. EPA's Superfund program funds the cleanup, works with the state to do the cleanup, or oversees cleanup by those responsible for the contamination.

**WRAG** - Whitehouse Remedial Action Group - the Settling Defendants at the Site.

## For More Information

### Attend Public Meetings

Stop by the upcoming Public Availability Session on **Tuesday, October 14, 2003 between 6:00 PM and 8:00 PM** to discuss the implementation of the Whitehouse cleanup plan.

### Call EPA's Information Line

If you have any questions about this project, call EPA at 1-800-435-9234 and speak with David Keefer, Remedial Project Manager.

### Visit the Information Repository

Reports and plans for the Whitehouse Site are located at:  
Whitehouse Elementary School  
11160 General Avenue  
Jacksonville, Florida 32220



United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency

South Site  
Management Branch

Region 4  
61 Forsyth Street, SW  
Atlanta, Georgia, 30303

Official Business  
Penalty for Private Use  
\$300

**INSIDE:  
WHITEHOUSE  
WASTE OIL PITS  
FACT SHEET**